

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 13. (Cancelled).

A Claim 14. (Currently amended) A carbohydrate mixture for dietetic food products and pharmaceuticals containing several carbohydrates, characterized in that said mixture consists of two different, substantially soluble carbohydrate components A and B, which remain undigested in the gastrointestinal tract and enter the large intestine without being resorbed and wherein,

C carbohydrate component A consists of at least one monosaccharide or at least one oligosaccharide of up to six monosaccharide units, or a mixture of two or of more of these saccharides;

carbohydrate component B consists of one polysaccharide or a mixture of two or more polysaccharides containing at least seven monosaccharide up to a maximum of up to 100 monosaccharide units; and

wherein the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate component A have a different structure than the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate component B;

carbohydrate component A is present in an amount of from 5 to 95 weight percent and carbohydrate component B is present in an amount of from 5 to 95 weight percent of the sum of the carbohydrate components A + B, and that

at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates / saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B have a prebiotic effect.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 30 ~~A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 13~~ characterized in that at least 80 eight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B promote lactic acid bacteria and/or are bifidogenic.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14 characterized in that at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B promote lactic acid bacteria and/or are bifidogenic.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 30 ~~A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 13~~, characterized in that the weight percent of the carbohydrate component A is higher than the weight percent of the carbohydrate component B.

C1 Claim 18. (Currently amended) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14, characterized in that the weight percent of the carbohydrate component A is higher than the weight percent of the carbohydrate component B.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~A carbohydrate mixture according to~~ claim 17, characterized in that the carbohydrate component A comprises 95 to 60 weight percent and the carbohydrate component B comprises 5 to 40 weight percent, with $A + B = 100$ weight percent.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 18, characterized in that the carbohydrate component A comprises 95 to 60 weight percent and the carbohydrate component B comprises 5 to 40 weight percent, with $A + B = 100$ weight percent.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~A carbohydrate mixture according to~~ claim 19, characterized in that the carbohydrate component A comprises about 90 weight percent and the carbohydrate component B comprises about 10 weight percent.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 30 ~~A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 13~~, characterized in that the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 and/or α 1-6 position.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 21~~, characterized in that the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 and/or α 1-6 position.

C A Claim 24. (Previously presented) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14, characterized in that the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 and/or α 1-6 position.

Claim 25. (Currently amended) The composition of ~~A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 17~~, characterized in that the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 and/or α 1-6 position.

A Claim 26. (Previously presented) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 18, characterized in that the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the α 1-4 and/or α 1-6 position.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 30 ~~A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 13~~, characterized in that at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component A belong to the galacto-oligosaccharide group and at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the

carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component B belong to the fructo-polysaccharide group.

★ Claim 28. (Previously presented) A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14, characterized in that at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component A belong to the galacto-oligosaccharide group and at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component B belong to the fructo-polysaccharide group.

C1 Claim 29. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 30 ~~A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 13,~~ characterized in that, apart from the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B, they contain an insoluble carbohydrate or a soluble and digestible carbohydrate or a mixture of one or more of these carbohydrates.

★ Claim 30. (Currently amended) A dietetical or pharmaceutical composition containing a carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14 whereby said dietetical or pharmaceutical composition containing said carbohydrate mixture promotes the growth of lactic acid bacteria in the large intestine of a human.

Claim 31. (Currently amended) A method for promoting growth of flora of the large intestine in humans and/or promoting the growth of lactic acid bacteria, which comprises administering to a human a growth promoting effective amount of the composition of claim 30 ~~carbohydrate mixture of claim 13.~~

★ Claim 32. (Previously presented) A method for promoting growth of flora of the large intestine in humans and/or promoting the growth of lactic acid bacteria, which comprises administering to a human a growth promoting effective amount of the carbohydrate mixture of claim 14.